

REGIONAL COOPERATION

By Carlos Urrutia, City Manager

What is regional cooperation and why is that important to you?

Regional cooperation is a powerful tool to harness the resources of multiple city and county governments to the benefit of all residents. Rocklin's goal in working with our regional partners is to maintain our individual character and collaborate on issues that will strengthen the region. By doing this, we save taxpayers money, improve the delivery of vital public services and sustain residents' high standard of living.

Transportation, waste disposal and economic development are just three examples of ways in which city and county governments collaborate to benefit residents.

Imagine if you will, Highway 65 traffic passing by Rocklin without the interchanges to adequately access our community. The state does not pay for all highway interchanges. At the same time, Rocklin, as a small city, cannot afford to pay for all the road improvements needed to provide residents with access to their homes, schools, parks, and offices.

The construction of highway interchanges and road improvements is a major undertaking. Through regional cooperation via the Highway 65 Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and the fees assessed on new development, Rocklin residents benefit from improvements made for much needed traffic flow. On this board, the City of Rocklin has an equal voice with the City of Roseville and Placer County and works collaboratively to address the traffic needs of the region.

For example, consider the interchanges on Highway 65 at Blue Oaks Boulevard and Pleasant Grove Boulevard. These interchanges were completed concurrent to the development in the area, i.e. Galleria at Roseville. This is in sharp contrast to the often agonizingly slow process of adding traffic improvements well after the development in an area has occurred, and it is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when city and county governments work collectively towards a common goal.

At the same time, consider the challenges of meeting state mandates for the reduction of garbage disposal in landfills without residents incurring astronomical costs. You may not have thought much about it, but garbage disposal can have a significant impact on resources and the environment. Rocklin, through the Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA), is currently diverting almost 50% of our waste from landfill disposal. Simply put, even if you don't recycle – we will do it for you.

At the regional Material Recovery Facility, Rocklin's garbage is sorted by hand to recover recyclable materials such as steel, aluminum, plastics, glass, newspaper and magazines just to name a few. By working together with the Cities of Roseville and

Lincoln, as well as Placer County, we are successfully conserving natural resources, reducing waste and keeping garbage disposal costs down for residents.

Finally, the recent tax sharing agreement between Rocklin and Roseville over the WalMart relocation clearly demonstrates a “good neighbor” approach to government with positive results for our community. In this instance, hundreds of thousands of dollars in sales-tax revenue over the next three years for the City of Rocklin will not be lost as WalMart relocates to a new site in Roseville. An agreement of this type is virtually unheard of in California.

Does regional cooperation impact you? Yes, it does. And, you can be assured that Rocklin is committed to working with our regional partners to provide you the best possible services and maintain Rocklin’s high quality of life for all residents.